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The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (THIRD Series), No. 385. FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1915. Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free 1½d.)

AUG 18 1915

A LETTER FOR MR. ASQUITH

The employment of postwomen, begun in the provinces, has now reached London. How long will it be before women's services to the State, in peace and war, will convince even the Government of the injustice of refusing women's demands for the proper recognition of those services?

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C. Telephone, Holborn 5889
Colours: Purple, White and Orange

THE CAMPAIGN

Indoor Meetings

Thursday, July 22; 3 p.m.—Working Party.—Lower Road, Chorley Wood. Hostess: Mrs. Biddle.

Friday, July 23; 7.30 p.m.—Members' Meeting.—Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate, Manchester.

Tuesday, July 27; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting.—U.S. Women's Club. Speaker: Mrs. Gregory.

Wednesday, July 28; from 11 to 1 and 3 to 6.—Jumble Sale.—47A, Earl's Court Road. (Private sale on Tuesday, for which free tickets can be obtained.)

Friday, July 30; 7.30 p.m.—At Home.—Onward Buildings, Manchester. Speaker: Mr. J. Redwood Anderson.

Wednesday, September 15; 8 p.m.—Members' Meeting.—Queen's College (Room 12), Birmingham.

Outdoor Meetings

Sunday, July 25; 5.30 p.m.—Hyde Park. Speakers: Mrs. Gregory and Mrs. E. Duval.

Tuesday, July 27; 3.30 p.m.—Corner of Webber Street, New Cut. Speaker: Mrs. Whelen.

Wednesday, July 28; 8 p.m.—Corner of Sydney Street, Manchester.

U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

Secretary, Miss M. R. Cochrane, 92, Borough Road, S.E.

Our Tuesday evening meeting and our Thursday concert continue to be well attended. Now our minds are filled with expectation for the outing on Saturday, July 24. Our friends have been splendid in helping us towards it, so that we have been able to arrange what we hope will be a very enjoyable day.

Motor 'buses will leave the Club sharp at 1.30, so that all members and friends are asked to be at the Club by 1.15. We ought to arrive at Epping Forest at about 3 p.m., when we shall find a meat tea ready for us. After tea there will be donkey rides, merry-go-rounds, swings, and joy-wheels; or, for those who prefer it, strolls in the Forest. If it should turn out wet we are to have a hall with a piano in it, so that no one need be dull.

At 7.45 we shall assemble again for cakes and lemonade, &c. Then back to London by moonlight.

We have to thank, for beautiful boxes of country flowers: Mrs. Harben, Miss Hood, Miss Gore-Browne, and Mrs. Richmond.

HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

There is still time to send in your name to the Holiday Campaign Organiser, and to take part in the campaign.

The many who want to help but cannot go away from home this year need not be discouraged. There is plenty of scope for selling the paper at places like Kew, Richmond, Hampton Court, Hendon, and other resorts of Londoners and country visitors during the coming weeks. This may be quite as useful as work further afield, and people will be found from all parts of the country who will carry back the news that the women's fight against tyranny at home as well as abroad goes on with determination and success.

So many people feel they cannot enjoy the holidays this year, but the best way to forget anxiety and trouble is in service—the world-wide, international service of the cause of womanhood.

BIRMINGHAM U.S.

19, New Street

On Wednesday, the 14th inst., a members' meeting was held, and there was a thorough discussion of the Registration Bill. Miss Dorothy Evans, Anstey College, Erdington, would be glad to hear from any member anxious to take up a definite attitude on this question. Will all members please carefully notice that the next meeting will be held on September 15, at Queen's College (Room 12), at 8 p.m. It will be an extremely important meeting, as the new Organiser will be present, and it is hoped to give her a very cordial welcome. The Treasurer also hopes that all who owe office rent will bring it with them on September 15, and that any member who is able to do so will bring as large a contribution as possible, so that the winter's work may start on a satisfactory financial basis. The present Secretary, Miss M. Haly, has resigned, and until the work restarts in September with the new Organiser, all communications should be addressed to Charles Gray, Esq., Branches' Organiser, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London.

HAMPSTEAD U.S.

Hon. Sec., Mrs. Hicks, 33, Downside Crescent

On Friday, July 9, the last meeting of this season took the form of a social gathering at 2, Crossfield Road, by kind invitation of Madame Alice Godfrey. After an hour spent in music and conversation, the serious business of the evening began, and when Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett had made a few remarks as Chairman, and Mrs. Ayrton Gould, in a forceful and eloquent speech, showed how in the present crisis this country was suffering from its refusal to raise the status of its women, a lively discussion followed as to the right attitude for women to take up towards "war work." It was pleasant to welcome many among the guests who had before taken little or no part in the Suffrage movement. A collection of £1 was taken.

KENSINGTON U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Postlethwaite, 47a, Earl's Court Road, W. Telephone: Western 926

Thanks are due to Mrs. Hartley Withers for her generous gift of £1 towards the shop; also for promising to give us a drawing-room meeting in the autumn. Thanks also to Miss Sloane for a donation of 2s. Gifts continue to come in for the Jumble Sale on Wednesday, July 28. The following are warmly thanked for their contributions this week: Mrs. Jopling Rowe, Mrs. Sloane, Miss Evelyn Sharp, and Miss Oldrini. Tickets for the private sale the day before can be obtained at the shop by members and friends.

MANCHESTER U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Hope Hampson, Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate

A successful meeting was held at the corner of Sydney Street, a good crowd listening with close attention to Mrs. Forrester's speech. Mrs. Duncan's address at the last "At Home" was greatly enjoyed, and aroused an interesting debate. It was delightful to meet once more with several staunch Suffragettes who have not been able to visit the new Branch before. The next "At Home," on July 30, should attract a goodly company to hear Mr. Redwood Anderson read two of his poetical works.

TREASURER'S NOTE

A treasurer is always a gloomy person. He or she hates to sign cheques. But if any friends are desirous of dispelling his or her trouble, let them write letters like this: "I herewith enclose 5s. promised subs—quarterly, for June 24 quarter—for U.S. I have scraped out another 5s. as donation, so please find 10s. enclosed. . . If my sub. to VOTES FOR WOMEN has run out, please let me know, and I will send it; but I don't want to be 'docked' of my paper."

How many more will follow this example? It is a bad thing to have a gloomy person in an office, and it will need at least 100 readers to dispel the treasurer's frowns. He is not a camel, and liketh not the hump. He will be cheerful when the U.S. revenue equals the amount collected for income tax. We pay this sum for the existence of the nation. Subscriptions paid to the United Suffragists are better than income tax. They are the premium paid to ensure the political emancipation of half the nation.

Now, who will be the first of the 100?

"VOTES FOR WOMEN" FUND

Donations Received up to July 19

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,268	13	9½
Mrs. Almond	1	0	0
Mrs. Cancellor	3	0	0
Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck	3	0	0
Collections	1	10	3
James Craig, Esq.	0	5	0
Mrs. Fox Strangways	0	5	0
Mrs. Gow	0	10	0
Hampstead Branch (per Mrs. Hicks)	2	2	0
Per Mrs. Masters (extra on VOTES)	0	1	2
The Misses Philp	1	0	0
Miss E. M. Prier	1	0	0
Miss F. C. Prier	0	10	0
Miss W. C. Prier	0	10	0
Mrs. Richmond	0	10	0
Miss Evelyn Sharp	1	0	0
Wm. Smith, Esq.	0	2	0
Miss Somers	0	6	0
Per Miss Somers (extra on VOTES)	0	0	4
Miss Warren	0	5	0
Mrs. Elaine Whelen	1	0	0
Mrs. Hartley Withers	0	10	0
	£1,287	0	6½

WOMEN'S CLUB FUND

Donations Received up to July 17

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	270	7	5
Per Miss Cochrane (Club Receipts)	0	13	3
Miss Hickey	0	5	0
Mrs. Hutchinson	0	2	0
	£271	7	8

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

Membership Card

OBJECT:—To secure a Government measure to give women the Vote on equal terms with men.

The United Suffragists—

(1) Believe that men and women can usefully co-operate on equal terms in one organisation for the enfranchisement of women.

(2) Regard Woman Suffrage as the foremost political issue of the day, and will work without considering the interests of any political party.

(3) Recognise various forms of suffrage activity as of value, and are ready to contribute any kind of service according to their capacity and conviction.

There is no fixed subscription or entrance fee, but members are relied upon to support the Society to the best of their ability.

Membership is open to everyone who endorses the object of this Society, irrespective of membership of any other Society, militant or non-militant.

I wish to join the United Suffragists, whose object I approve.

Name (Mr., Mrs., or Miss) .....
Please write clearly.

Address .....

.....

.....

Fill in the above Form and post it to Hon. Sec. United Suffragists, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper

THE OUTLOOK

Mr. Lloyd George, in his address to the deputation which waited upon him last Saturday to offer the services of many women in the making of munitions, counselled patience, giving reasons, in connection with the supply of tools and machines, why organisation could not go ahead as rapidly as some might wish, but outlining immediate schemes of training and preparation. Some 50,000 women, he said, were already employed in turning out munitions of war. He dwelt on prejudices which had to be overcome, and on the temporary nature of the work. The part of his statement which it is most immediately necessary to scrutinise is that which refers to women's wages. He repeated the old and notoriously worthless assertion that piece rates would be equal for men and women. On time rates—and it is on time rates that the whole question turns—he had little to say that was definite. Government was to assume control and see that there was no sweated labour; "fair" wages were to be paid.

What are "Fair" Wages?

No British Government has shown itself in the past a consistent and effective enemy to sweating, and we confess to misgivings as to what Mr. Lloyd George might consider "fair" wages. That there is a difficulty in the Suffrage claim of equal pay for equal work we admit, and it is indeed improbable that we shall ever get that universally *until we have the vote*. The difficulty is in the definition of *equal work*. It is so easy for employers and Governments to manipulate things so that one person's work cannot be accurately compared with another's. When Mr. Lloyd George tells us that women will get less pay because "for some time they will be unskilled and untrained," we should like to ask him (1) Are men, when replacing other men and new to the work, being paid less in munition factories than the men they replace? (2) Will he guarantee that *when* women become skilled and trained, *then* their wages shall be proportionately raised? The Manchester Women's War Interests Committee is pressing for (among other safeguards) a guaranteed minimum wage of £1 a week for every adult woman employed in munitions. Suffragists will not regard such a claim as more than a beginning, but it is an excellent beginning. Meanwhile we note, and propose to continue harping upon, Mr. Lloyd George's promise that sweating shall be abolished. At present women are shamefully sweated (getting often only from 9s. to 15s. a week) in munition factories. *How soon is Mr. Lloyd George going to stop that?*

E.L.F.S. Deputation

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, after sending a letter to Mr. Lloyd George drawing his attention to the inadequacy of his promises, and inviting him to receive a deputation on the subject from the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, led a procession of working women to the House of Commons on Tuesday night. The procession was large and impressive, and everywhere cordially received by the onlookers. Mr. Lloyd George was away, but Mr. Gulland courteously received the deputation, and promised to try to arrange an interview later with Mr. Lloyd George. A packed and enthusiastic meeting was afterwards held in the Central Hall, Westminster, with Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky in the chair. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst outlined a policy of resistance to compulsory registration, and other speakers were Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Despard, and Mr. Lambert, M.P., who resisted the passage of the Registration Bill through the House. As this important procession and meeting have been to a great extent boycotted in the general Press, we hope to give a fuller account next week.

London Postwomen

The extension of the employment of "post-women" to London—to Eltham, Hendon (with Golder's Green) and East Ham—has furnished our cartoonist this week with a prophetic vision of women's just demands being presented at Mr. Asquith's door by a woman in the execution of her ordinary paid "job" instead of by way of militant deputation! The symbolism is perfectly just. It draws attention to the astonishing discrepancy in the minds of people who, like the members of the Government, think no shame to admit women to equality of service but yet, even while using their service, to exclude them from equality of status. We do not believe the general public is ignorant of the discrepancy, or unashamed at it. The sight of women on the railways and along the thoroughfares actually and obviously carrying on the work of the community is impressing the average man with a sense of the gross unfairness which excludes women from the dignity and duty of citizenship. But, though there is little hope of women having decent wages and conditions as a general thing until they are enfranchised, their very votelessness makes it meanwhile a duty to watch jealously lest they be exploited. We understand that the postwomen in question are getting equal wages with the auxiliary men engaged on similar work.

A Farcical Tragedy

An English-born woman, Grace Mary Jungk, whose husband is an interned German, was sentenced last Monday at Gravesend to a fine of £5 or a month's imprisonment for entering (being an "alien enemy") a prohibited area. She said her parents could not pay, and she would have to go to prison. Her reason for going to Gravesend was that her parents lived there, and, because of her German name, she could not get employment and was forced to return to them for support. If Mrs. Jungk is now in prison, there are two things demanded of the Government by common sense and common decency: to release her, and to alter the wicked and foolish law under which an Englishwoman is saddled with her husband's nationality and penalised as an "alien enemy" in her own home. We hope this case will be widely taken up.

The Need for Thrift

A clamour is arising for economy in public and private life, to meet in some measure the appalling outlay involved in war, and to make the national staying power greater. "Why," asks the *Daily Mail*, "should not a committee of women be formed in the neighbourhood of each camp to supervise the ordering and preparation of food?" Why, we may add, should not women be admitted to the great central bodies, Parliament and the Government, in whose hands all great public economies must lie? The woman, who is the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the home, knows best where to practice thrift without being penny wise and pound foolish. To increase taxation upon households already below the level of healthy existence, to pinch and scrape where the education and feeding and exercising of the growing generation are concerned, is not economy but gross extravagance. Lord St. Aldwyn, in his exhortations to a meeting of City men last Friday, rightly expressed the need for all-round economies. But the Government should set the example by just and wise measures of public economies, and the public ones can no more be effectively handled without the aid of women than could the private. Now that thrift has become the chief and admitted necessity for national salvation, the exclusion of women from citizenship shows up, if possible, as even more wantonly foolish than before.

Indian Women

Very special interest attaches to a memorial which has been presented to Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for India, on the subject of the education of Indian girls. This memorial, adopted at a meeting at Lady Muir-Mackenzie's house on the Wednesday of last week, on the motion of Mrs. Yusuf Ali and Lady Emily Lutyens, with the support of Sir Krishna Gupta, pointed out that "the number of girls under instruction in British India is only the equivalent of 3,910 for every million of the population." "It held" (we quote from the *Times* account) "that the enormous disparity of 1 to 5 in the number of girls and boys under instruction in British India constitutes a grave danger to the social well being of the Indian communities. The memoralists prayed that the whole question should be thoroughly examined by a representative committee, consisting mainly of Indians of all communities, including Indian ladies, in association with ladies connected with or interested in education in this country."

Items of Interest

We have received, unfortunately too late for insertion in our news columns, a report, from the Northern Men's Federation, of a large and enthusiastic mass meeting held by them last Sunday in the East Meadows, Edinburgh. Stirring speeches were made by Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett and others, and at a reception held after the demonstration a presentation was made to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Nannie Brown, and her sister, Miss Brown.

The Bill for Limitation of Coal Prices passed its second reading on Monday. As it affects only pit-head prices, and not the operations of merchants, it cannot by itself have any great effect in keeping down the retail prices, which alone concern the housekeeper.

We invite the notice of the members of the Actresses' Franchise League to the statement of their Society's accounts, which appears in our advertisement columns on page 354.

The N.U.W.S.S. is planning a memorial and deputation to the Prime Minister on the subject of the admission of women to the higher posts of the Civil Service.

The new President of the Women Writers' Suffrage League is Mrs. Fenwick Miller, author of "The Life of Harriet Martineau," and from 1895 to 1899 editor of the suffrage paper, *The Woman's Signal*.

An Apology

In an advertisement of Messrs. Debenham and Freebody's in our last week's issue, the price of a crêpe de chine blouse coat was, by a printer's error, given as 9s. 6d. instead of 29s. 6d. The figures were correct in the final proof, and we understand from our printers that the omission must have been due to a breakage of the type itself, so that the mistake was an absolutely unforeseen and unpreventable accident. We very much regret that it should have happened, and tender our apologies to Messrs. Debenham and Freebody and to our readers for any inconvenience it may have caused them.

Articles and News contributed for insertion in VOTES FOR WOMEN should be sent to The Editors, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

The Editors cannot hold themselves in any way responsible for the return of unused manuscripts, though they will endeavour as far as possible to return them when requested if stamps for postage are enclosed. MSS. should, if possible, be typewritten.

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Telephone:—Holborn 5880 (2 lines).

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1915.

THE DUTY OF CRITICISM

In the grave crisis through which our nation is passing, the Government is being compelled to take action promptly and decisively on a vast number of serious issues. It is of paramount importance to the nation that this action should be based on sane thinking, and it is therefore the patriotic duty of every man and woman to do the utmost in his or her power to facilitate sane thinking on the part of the Government.

The first requisite is to refrain from doing or saying anything which will hinder. Before the war a large section of Woman Suffragists had been engaged for many years in direct conflict with the Government; and in pursuance of Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman's advice, they had, as part of their campaign, adopted the deliberate policy of "pestering" Cabinet Ministers. The day that war broke out, the United Suffragists, and all the other Suffrage societies who had adopted Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman's advice, definitely abandoned these tactics. No other course was then open to them if they desired to render the highest service to their country.

But the duty of helping the Government to think sanely is far from fulfilled by mere adherence to this negative programme. At least equally important is the positive task of bringing to bear upon the situation a well-considered, temperately-worded but exhaustive criticism. And surely there never was a time when the criticism of earnest, thoughtful women was more urgently needed than it is to-day. New issues and new problems relating to matters in which women are directly involved, or on which they have special knowledge, crowd in upon one another with a frequency and an intricacy undreamed of in days of peace. There is the whole question of the allowances to the mothers and wives and children of soldiers away at the front, and of the pensions in the case of disablement or death. There is the question of women taking the place in industry of men. In these days of the regulation of prices and wages and profits, and restriction of Trade Unions, what is the right attitude of the Government toward the employment of women on the same work as men at a fraction of their wages? There is the question of the permissibility of child labour. There is the question of economy—it has been suggested, for instance, in the Lords that as an offset against the huge cost of the war, some reduction ought to be effected in the national expenditure on education. There is the question of compulsory national service for women as well as for men.

What prospect is there that these and many other kindred questions will be wisely handled if left to the uncriticised discretion of the Government? Woman Suffragists have good reason to distrust the judgment on matters concerning women of many of the politicians who occupy prominent places in the Cabinet. But even if the past could be entirely wiped out, if those in authority were undoubtedly among the most sympathetic and wisest of their sex, even so they have not, as *men*, the knowledge and the understanding which would fit them to decide these issues unaided; and in the overwhelming press of other business they will not be made aware of women's point of view unless it is thrust in upon them in the shape of direct and vigorous criticism.

By some Suffragists this determination to criticise the Government is regarded as unpatriotic. They argue that it will tend to divert the minds of Cabinet Ministers from more important affairs. Such an attitude appears to us to give away the whole case of the woman's movement. The fight which women have been putting up during all these years for increased powers of expression, and the heroic sacrifices which they have made on its behalf, have not been on account of some sectional advantage which they hoped to obtain for themselves, but in order that a right solution might be found for the deep human problems which lie at the basis of our national existence. At this time of grave crisis it is not a matter of less importance but of supreme importance that these problems shall be settled rightly, and we view the prospect of having them decided wrongly, and the whole current of national life turned into improper channels, with the gravest misgiving.

But there are some Suffragists whose opposition to our attitude is based not on patriotism but on expediency. "Do you not see," they say to us, "that by criticising the Government at this juncture you are alienating sympathy? The best chance of winning votes for women after the war is over is by ingratiating ourselves with the Government to-day; politicians will then learn from experience how much is to be gained by having us on their side, just as they learnt in years gone by how unpleasant it was to have us opposing them." It would be easy to answer this school of Suffragists by reminding them that "gratitude" is not a virtue for which politicians are particularly noted, and that if it is found that Suffragists can be diverted from their course now by expediency, other methods of diversion will be discovered by the resourceful political mind when the war is over. (Apart altogether from the fact that helpful and constructive criticism of the Government does *not* alienate any sympathy worth having.)

But the real answer goes deeper. It is that the love of our country forbids us to take the course that they would have us pursue. Just as we abandoned a campaign involving the "militancy" of pressing home our claims on Ministers, for the sake of our country, because it would have hindered and not helped, so when our country needs our knowledge and experience we cannot remain silent. We as the articulate members of the womanhood of the nation have a responsibility for the lives of the dumb millions of our countrywomen. And to this sacred trust we are determined to remain true.

THE INDEPENDENT WIFE

By Joanna Mayes

The Grange, May, 1914.

Yes, my dear Marie, I am an independent woman once more. My drawings, thank Heaven, are selling like "hot cakes"—I have more commissions than I can get through. So the money we have ardently wished for, to invest for Paul's education, will soon be forthcoming (in fact, some of it has forthcome); the worry frown has departed from Philip's manly brow, and last, but not least, I, my dear, am happier than I have been for many moons.

But oh, the times I have had! Not with Philip. Oh, dear, no! He was most sympathetic when I told him how tired I was of vainly trying to make sixpence do the work of a shilling, and how deadly sick of so-called "social duties" and my endless committees. I must say I *had* expected a little opposition from that quarter. I quite expected Phil to say—"But, my dear! I look to you to help me in my Practice" (with a very large "P," don't you know, Marie!); "a doctor depends so much on his wife!" I told Phil this, and he was vastly amused. "If my work wants bolstering up by my wife, old girl," he said, chuckling, "the sooner I shut up shop, the better for my patients." So after that I felt free to do as I liked, and straightway engaged a room as a studio, and generally let people know I was panting for orders; and set about doing some stuff for a local exhibition. I went to my studio for about five or six hours a day.

After that, the Deluge!

Mamma began it.

She came over for the day and talked seriously to me for most of it. My place, she said, was in the Home, not gadding about in a studio. I ought to be washing babies and doing housework. Also, I used to be quite a nice girl, but the Woman's Movement had absolutely turned my brain—and so on, *ad infinitum, ad nauseam.* I tried argument. I pointed out that I was spending no more time outside my home now than I did in the old days, when there were endless luncheon parties and tea parties and committee meetings, and what not, to attend, to which she had made no kind of objection. I told her Phil thought I was much too mentally active to be constantly with my babies—I unconsciously stimulated their brains, and someone more bucolic, so to speak, was better for them. I also pointed out I was employing no more "help" now than I had been for the last four years! But it was of no use. Mamma would not see reason. I was earning my living (or attempting to!), and that was a disgraceful thing when I was the wife of a professional man.

Then Papa arrived!

He said that the husband should be head of the home, and if I earned money I should be no longer economically dependent on Phil, and then, where would Phil's authority be? Why, I could spend all the money I earned *as I liked!!* Poor, dear Papa! As if Phil and I were not in partnership; as if we didn't share up everything—only now there is a *plus* to share, and not a *minus.*

After Papa, Cousin Lucy! Cousin Lucy, with her spectacles and black satin reticule, and all. *She* talked in awed whispers of the diminishing birth-rate, and how it was my plain duty to help the State. In some mysterious way it seems that if I earn money I shall never feel inclined to have any more children. And I thought of the weary days before Bertha came—and went, dear little soul! I was secretary of some society or other; and as they couldn't get another woman to help just then, I had to stick on, though I ought not to have been doing anything at all. Then I got a chill coming from one of their ridiculous meetings—and, well, you know the rest, Marie. And Cousin Lucy knows it too. But in that case, you see, it wasn't a matter of business—I couldn't just break loose when I liked. Now, I can refuse commissions if I don't want them, and my hours of work are regulated by my own sweet will! The *real* reason why Cousin Lucy objects is the old, old snobbish reason—it isn't *nice* for me to make money. You see, dear Marie, we are in the Provinces!

But Aunt Dolly was really my crowning trial. She insisted I was being a bad wife to Philip, and prophesied the ruin of our home, the shattering of all our earthly joys—women like myself were sending the country to perdition! Her own daughters are, of course, perfection. They are perfect wives and mothers. Evangeline, it seems, has done heaps of translating work for her wretched little Professor, so that he could write his book. But that is all right, because the Professor gets all the credit and Evangeline is modestly in the background!

No, Marie, I haven't exaggerated one little bit! They *really* said these things, and really meant them. I know it is incredible—I know one is apt to think *all* women are thinking on broader lines because the intelligent minority are. Middle-class women in the Provinces are *not.* What I want to know is, how and where and when are they to be educated?

WINIFRED.

THE WAR OF ALL THE AGES*

It is a ticklish business to review a book by one's own editor. However, the editor of this paper is away for the present, and the time seems, therefore, appropriate for saying exactly what one thinks about her just-published collection of stories and sketches, most of which have appeared in various papers—some of them in our own columns.

There is a certain superfluousness in praising Miss Sharp's work to the Suffragist public, for that public has been for years familiar with her wit and eloquence, her wide and profound sympathies with every form of human suffering and aspiration. But Miss Sharp, of course, has two publics. Before Suffrage was brought into prominence by the inception of the militant movement, she was widely known as a novelist and journalist—perhaps specially as the writer of fascinating books for children. Of one of these the distinguished poet, Mr. William Watson, wrote:—

> Here in this book the wise may find
> A world exactly to their mind.

This new collection will appeal to the public which looks for literary charm as well as to the public which looks for truth and prophecy and social propaganda. But perhaps the distinction is unnecessary. Perhaps by now the two publics are merged in one. If not, the volume before us should go far towards merging them. It should prove that there is no antagonism between literature and life; that a work of art does not suffer in its artistry by drawing its inspiration from a passionate conviction.

Here, in this book, the wise will *not* find a world exactly to their mind. They will find a world full of the most sordid misery, the blackest injustice, the crookedest misunderstanding. Not that all the sketches deal with sorrow. Some of them are purely humorous, treating the minor stupidities of life with raillery instead of scorn. Such, for instance, is the account of "The University Set and the Colonel." Others are terrible in their deliberate facing of facts themselves so terrible that most of us are too cowardly to face them. But the note which harmonises this diversity of theme and manner is the note of sympathy.

The one fault of the book is inequality. Some of the sketches are immeasurably better than others, and in the less good the dialogue occasionally strikes one as unnatural. The merits, both of intention and of execution, are so numerous and of a kind so familiar to our readers that it would be impertinent to praise them; but attention must be called to the crowning merit, for which, as Aristotle said of various extreme qualities, "there appears to be no name." That is the absence of sentimentality, yet it is no mere negative thing. It is the positive and splendid and sincere and *real* quality of being the opposite of sentimental.

There is one sketch in "The War of All the Ages" of which we can scarcely bring ourselves to speak. The subject with which it deals is not an unfamiliar one. It is one of the ordinary facts of our "civilisation," and there can be no truce in the age-long war until that fact is wiped out of our civilisation, and we can really begin to call ourselves civilised. Meanwhile, it is no use our saying that "we cannot bear to think of such things." The things are done, and must be spoken of. And Miss Sharp's way of speaking of them is the perfect way. The restraint and subtlety of the treatment are beyond praise. This sketch, called "A Million a Day," is one of the unforgettable things in literature. It tells of a little girl shrinking all day at school from "facing the usual people." (We are not yet told why.)

> Teachers, playmates, the school caretaker—these all reminded her that she had become a sort of stranger to herself since yesterday.

Is not that a wonderful phrase—"a stranger to herself"? The child "had tried to play truant. Then hunger drove her into school." And after the long day in school she tried to stay away from home. She had a penny to spend at the oilshop, but she did not do so; she heard, however, a conversation there which began:

> "If you want an Empire you must pay for it. . . . A million a day—that's about the size of it. What's a penny on a pint o' beer compared to a million a day?"

The child spent her oilshop penny on "an exquisite crumbly macaroon with a fat preserved cherry in the middle of it—and for five minutes it made a child of her again." But cold and wet drove her home at last. She looked down "into the basement tenement that the Empire had given her for a home."

> There were the two beds covered with clothes and old bits of sacking—the large one in which father and mother and the baby slept, and the little one in which she and her baby brother slept. And on the floor by the window was Alf's mattress—Alf who couldn't get married because there was no place near his work for him to live in. And last night Alf had been too cold to stay in his bed by the window.

That is all the detail you are told about a tragedy worse than the tragedy of a battlefield. You must read the end of the story for yourself—particularly if you are not yet fighting in the war of all the ages.

H. H.

* "The War of All the Ages." By Evelyn Sharp. (Sidgwick and Jackson. 3s. 6d.)

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING

THE U.S. WEEKLY MEETINGS
AN IMPRESSION

In my ignorance concerning the life of the people, being dependent entirely upon the daily Press for my information, I was under the impression that the Suffrage movement was dead and buried. Judge, then, of my astonishment when, walking along Baker Street last Thursday, I saw a number of women, many of whom I identified as workers in the Suffrage movement, entering the portals of the Small Portman Rooms. I imagined that it was an assembly for the purpose of forming a committee to do something or other in connection with the various funds which are appealing for our support.

Curiosity being ever my besetting sin, I followed the crowd and entered the hall.

To my joyful surprise, I found that the meeting was for the purpose of claiming the right of women to the franchise. The flags of the United Suffragists decorated the Hall, and paper-sellers interrupted my walk along the long stairway, offering Votes for Women. I bought a copy, and while we waited for the speaker I glanced through its columns, and was delighted to see that it still maintained with all its old energy the view that women should be enfranchised in the interests of the whole country.

A burst of applause stopped my reading of T. O'Meara's fable, and, glancing up, I was delighted to make once again the acquaintance of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

She devoted her speech to a review of the changes which have taken place during the last twelve months. Last July, she said, most people in the country believed that we had a free speech and a free Press. Suffragists could have undeceived them upon this. To-day, however, there was no pretence of this character. Not only were people liable to imprisonment for their writings, but also for their private speech.

Mrs. Lawrence also dwelt on the changed attitude of mind of the Press and public towards women. Last July everyone said that the place of women was in the home. Anything which tended to cause women to do anything outside the domestic circle was ridiculed. To-day all this was changed. Women were wanted everywhere except in the home.

Mrs. Lawrence dealt with the Registration Bill, in so far as the injustice of registering voteless women was concerned. What, however, most deeply interested me was the vigorous discussion which followed the speech. It was delightful to find that the old spirit of women who were determined to obtain justice for their sex was still alive.

I only wished that two or three members of the Government could have been present, so that they could have heard the practical suggestions that were put forward. They would have recognised how important it was to them in their present great task to have the helpful counsel and work of women on equal terms. Many of the muddles which have arisen, and which were inevitable under a method which takes the political services of only half the people, would not have occurred if the woman citizen had been working side by side with the male citizen.

I came away from the meeting much cheered in heart and spirit. My only regret was to hear that the meeting was the last of the series for the present season. I shall look forward to the autumn for a renewal. Real things that matter are evidently the concern of the United Suffragists. May their work prosper!

A Wanderer in London.

TRADE UNIONISM FOR WOMEN

To the Editors of Votes for Women.

Dear Editors,—We are all alive to the danger involved in the entrance of large numbers of women into new trades hitherto monopolised by men—that they may be forced to accept low wages and poor conditions, and thus suffer themselves severely and also bring upon women the reproach of lowering the whole status of the trade or process in which they are employed.

Under these circumstances it is imperative that an effort should be made to persuade them to join a responsible Trade Union. This is especially necessary in the engineering trade, where the number of new workers is largest, and the industrial danger, therefore, greatest. It seems very important, for the sake of the women's movement and for our position in industry, that women should not get the unfair reputation among working men of cheapening every trade to which they gain entrance. Nothing but a strong Women's Trade Union can avert this calamity. The Electric and Machine Workers' Union, which is a well-established and well-known Union in the engineering trade (affiliated to the Manchester District Women's Trade and Labour Council) is making a special effort to organize these new workers. Such a campaign, if it is to be effective, involves employing the services of special organizers. A highly qualified woman, now working in the trade, who has for years done Trade Union work in her spare time, is willing to undertake this very difficult task, and the Union wish to take her away from her present employment and guarantee her a weekly wage of 25s. for a year. The committee have themselves voted half this amount, and will also have to meet organizing, travelling, and printing expenses, while their funds have already suffered from last winter's heavy out-of-work payments. The rest will have to be raised by contributions from sympathisers.—Yours, &c.,

Eva Gore Booth,
Co-Secretary Women's Trade Council.

SUFFRAGE IN GLASGOW

To the Editors of Votes for Women.

Dear Editors,—Your kindness in publishing a former effusion of mine gives me courage to trouble you once more.

To be candid, I am writing chiefly that I may have the pleasure of seeing the name "Glasgow" appear in your paper. For months now I have sorrowfully searched every possible corner in hopes of finding some notice concerning Glasgow; but this poor town has apparently disappeared from the "Suffrage world." I really envy the fortunate women who live in London, Liverpool, and other English towns where the Suffrage cause is still alive, and I am quite sure there are many who lament equally with me the suspension of Suffrage work in Glasgow. What we want is organisation and leaders—democratic leaders.—Yours, &c.,

M. Corregan.

152, Calder Street, Glasgow.

[This letter was written on the 4th, and has been delayed for want of space. The reproach it contains was removed by the appearance of Glasgow in our columns last week in the announcement of the Northern Men's Edinburgh meeting!—Ed., Votes for Women.]

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Remnant Day
THURSDAY

ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE

Cash Account—1st June, 1914, to 1st July, 1915

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Subscriptions		10 6 6
Donations	30 7 11	
" Special Relief Fund	31 18 0	
		62 5 11
Collections at "At Homes"		4 8 0
Profit on Teas		0 10 4
Speakers' Class		1 1 0
Sale of Literature and Badges		1 18 2
Rent by Sub-letting		33 16 6
Telephone		1 13 10
Light and Gas		7 14 2
Profits on Costume Dinner		14 18 2
Sale of Carpet		1 5 0
Share of Printing Reports from Play Dept.		2 10 0
Cleaning Offices, &c.		1 14 4
Stationery		0 6 6
For Offices, Expenses and Removals		7 11 2
Interest on Deposit Account		5 2 6
		157 2 1
Play Department—Gross Receipts		23 16 5
		180 18 6
Cash at Bank, June 1, 1914		287 2 9
" " " " Play Dept.		238 10 11
Cash on Deposit at Bank A.F.L.		200 0 0
		£906 12 2

PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Rent		40 0 0
Salaries		57 7 6
Petty Cash		42 2 1
Stamps		7 10 0
Electric Light and Gas		21 13 2
Printing and Stationery		12 18 7
Expenses at Exhibition		77 18 6
Advertising		9 5 0
Press Cuttings and Press Agents' Fee		4 12 0
Repairs		1 7 2
Telephone		27 10 0
Badges		3 17 0
Office Requisites		11 17 10
Relief Payments, including Loan		18 19 6
Legal Expenses		6 17 0
Painting and Decorating		17 2 6
Removal Expenses		5 8 9
Stall at Caxton Hall		0 13 3
Delegates' Fee		0 5 0
Insurance		0 5 0
Speaker's Fee		0 5 0
Auditor's Fee		2 12 6
Bank Charges		0 10 5
		370 17 9
Play Dept. Gross Expenses		100 9 10
		471 7 7
Balance at Bank	73 7 1	
" Play Department	161 17 6	
" On Deposit at Bank	200 0 0	
		435 4 7
		£906 12 2

Examined and found correct, ANNIE SOMERS.—10/7/'15.
June 30, 1915.

LENA ASHWELL, } Hon. Treasurers.
EDYTH OLIVE, }

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Criminal Assault

The *West Sussex Gazette* (July 8) reports case of a carter charged at the Sussex Assizes with criminally assaulting a girl under sixteen years of age.

Sentence: *Twelve months' hard labour.*

Manslaughter

The *Manchester Guardian* (July 15) reports case of a labourer charged at the Manchester Assizes with the manslaughter of his wife. Evidence showed that after his marriage he had taken to drinking, and neglected his work. His wife remonstrated with him for being drunk, and a quarrel followed, in the midst of which he picked up a lighted lamp and threw it at her, causing injuries from which she died. The jury found him guilty, but recommended him to mercy.

Sentence: *Eighteen months' hard labour.*

HEAVY SENTENCES

Arson

The *Manchester Guardian* (July 13) reports case of a labourer charged at the Manchester Assizes with setting fire to a hayrick. He pleaded guilty, and admitted previous convictions.

Sentence: *Three years' penal servitude.*

Forgery

The *Manchester Guardian* (July 13) reports case of a weaver charged at the Manchester Assizes with forging documents to the amount of £62. The judge said he could not accept prisoner's excuse that he had acted under the influence of drink, because the offence had been artfully carried out.

Sentence: *Three years' penal servitude.*

Over and above the cases given, we draw the attention of our readers this week to two others. We have so often commented on cases in which sentences so light as to be almost negligible—at any rate when compared with sentences for crimes against property—have been imposed for assaults on women and children, that it is only fair to comment also on a recent case in which a warehouseman at Liverpool, for criminal assault upon a child, has been given seven years' penal servitude. On such an incident it is necessary for us to make our position particularly clear, because it is in this connection that we are so often deliberately misrepresented. It is sometimes said—and we have no hesitation in declaring that it is generally said with a malicious motive—that Suffragists "gloat" over long sentences for sexual crimes. It was even brazenly asserted that Suffragists favoured the flogging clauses of the "White Slave" Act—clauses against which the best-known Suffrage workers protested passionately in the Press and on the platform. The truth is that Suffragists have done more than any other body of people in recent years to ameliorate prison conditions, and have the liveliest sense of the horror implied in a sentence of seven years' penal servitude. But what is to be done with a man who ruins little children? Most Suffragists, we are confident, would take the view that such a man is a lunatic—a case for sequestration rather than punishment. Certainly, *whatever else is done*, such a man should not be let loose after a few weeks' imprisonment to repeat his horrible offence. *If* punishment is the accepted weapon of the law, *if* severity of punishment is the measure—as at present it is—of the seriousness with which various offences are taken by the law, *then*, and only then, seven years' penal servitude is an appropriate sentence for a criminal assault. We would far rather see all punishments of this horrible nature abolished, and people afflicted with manias that make them a peril to their fellows—*and to the children of their fellows*—sequestered altogether from social life and treated as mental cases. In comparing punishments we do not belaud *punishment;* we merely insist on the comparative value that person and property hold in the eyes of those who administer punishments.

The other case we have to mention speaks for itself. Two soldiers at Athlone pleaded guilty to having assaulted a girl who came in a boat on the river with them. According to the account in the *Irish Times*, the girl's costume was torn from her, the artificial teeth which she wore were smashed to pieces in her mouth, she was kicked and beaten, two of her ribs were broken, her face was beaten out of recognition, her body covered with cuts and wounds—"in the light of the facts, how the girl escaped death is inexplicable." The sentence was twelve months' hard labour!

A WOMEN'S PROCESSION

A procession of women, estimated by the *Daily News* at "close upon ten thousand" in numbers as it passed the House of Commons, and subsequently "swelled by several thousand more," was led by Mrs. Pankhurst through the main streets of London last Saturday afternoon, and culminated in the reception of a deputation by Mr. Lloyd George and an address delivered by him to the assembled crowds. (We comment elsewhere on his pronouncements.) The weather was unfortunately wet, but that did not prevent considerable crowds from witnessing the procession, and the reception was everywhere favourable. The organisation was characteristically excellent. One striking feature of the procession was the Pageant of the Allies, which included figures symbolical of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. The object of the demonstration was to illustrate the desire of large numbers of women to take part in war work, special stress being laid upon the value and importance of women's work in munition factories.

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